

The period before the Romans arrived in Britain is known as the Iron Age. The people who lived here – the Celts – had learnt how to make tools and weapons out of iron, which meant that farming was easier and warfare was even more dangerous. The Celts began to live together in larger settlements so that people with different skills – potters, weavers, carpenters and blacksmiths – could all contribute to the smooth working of the village. To protect themselves, they built well-defended enclosures of ditches and walls which have become known as hill forts, even though they are not all on hills. Their earthworks can still be seen in many sites across the UK today.



- 1. *'... they built well-defended enclosures ...'*

What does the word 'enclosure' mean?

- deep moat fenced area
- fenced area
- foreign invader



2. Why is the term 'hill forts' not a totally accurate description of their settlements?



3. What evidence of hill forts can still be seen today?



There are moments in history when the future of a whole nation hangs in the balance. Just such a moment happened in 1940 when Britain stood alone against the might of Nazi Germany under its leader Adolf Hitler. Hitler never really wanted to invade Britain, but he also could not afford to leave it alone, so he ordered his air force, the Luftwaffe, to destroy the Royal Air Force (RAF). This would make it much easier for his armies to cross the English Channel and take over the whole country. He hadn't counted on the bravery and determination of the young fighter pilots from Britain and her allies to beat back the massed attacks by the German aircraft.

1. ...*Britain stood alone against the might of Nazi Germany...*

What does the word 'might' mean in this context?

- Strength
- Leader
- Opportunity
- Possibility
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2. The text says that Hitler did not want to invade Britain, so why did he order his air force to attack?

3. Find and copy one word in the last sentence that means friends or partners.



The reign of Queen Victoria is often seen as a golden age of progress for the United Kingdom. The vastness of the British Empire meant that it was a time of great opportunity and many people became very wealthy as a result. Not everyone was so fortunate, however. Within the country's rapidly expanding cities, families were crowded together in very cramped accommodation which were excellent breeding grounds for disease. What's more, even though the cities offered plenty of work, those jobs were often dangerous. As a result, people were lucky if they managed to live to see their 50s.



1. What does the word fortunate mean? Tick one.

- Expanding
- Lucky
- Poor

2. People moved to the cities because they offered plenty of work. Using evidence from the text, give two reasons why they were not such a good place to live.

3. These days, people often live until they are over 80 years old. Why do you think the text says, '*people were lucky if they managed to live to see their 50s*'? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.



The Christmas Truce

As Christmas drew near, a desire for a truce grew as care packages began arriving from home. Surrounding towns, villages, and support associations generously gave warm clothes and letters of thanks. Common gifts included chocolate, butterscotch, cigarettes and tobacco.

With boosted morale and more than usual to eat, the Christmas spirit entered the trenches and a truce began on 24th December 1914.

In some areas, German soldiers decorated their trenches with small Christmas trees with candles in them. This prompted carol singing and even some meetings in no man's land.

This was the first time that opponents had met, even if just briefly, in no man's land. In one instance, a note was sent asking for a ceasefire so the Germans could celebrate their captain's birthday. The British accepted and offered some tobacco in return.



1. Which two types of settlements are mentioned in the text in paragraph 1?



2. Which gift mentioned below was not given?

- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Tobacco

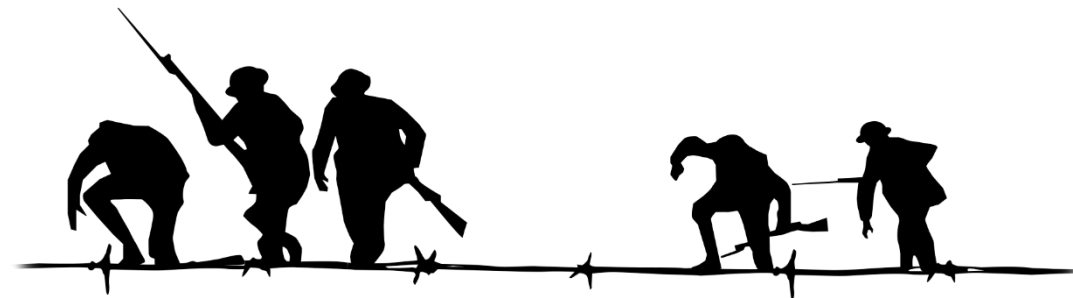


3. What did the German soldiers decorate their trenches with?



4. Which word is used to describe the stopping of the war temporarily?

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Saint George is the patron saint of many countries around the world, including England, Spain and Ethiopia. St. George's Day is celebrated on 23rd April every year. The symbol of Saint George is a red cross on a white background. This is also the flag of England and a part of the flag of Great Britain.

Who Was the Real Saint George?

Saint George was a soldier who was born in the year AD 270 in Eastern Turkey. He and his family were Christian and lived their lives following Christian values. When he was 17 years old, following the deaths of his father and mother, he joined the Roman army. By the age of 30, Saint George was promoted to a higher rank and became an imperial guard of the Emperor, Diocletian. In AD 303, the emperor stated that all Roman soldiers must worship Roman gods rather than follow their Christian faith. Saint George pleaded with him to stop but Diocletian refused. He even tried to bribe Saint George to give up his Christian beliefs. Saint George was imprisoned but didn't deny his faith, continuing to spread the word of Christianity. People thought of him as extremely brave.

23rd April was named St. George's Day in 1415 because this was thought to be the day that Saint George died in AD 303.



1. What is the abbreviation of the word 'Saint' used in the text?
2. How many years after joining the army was George promoted to a higher rank?
3. What word that is a synonym of 'beg' or 'request' shows what George did to the Roman emperor to stop his quest to ensure all soldiers worshipped Roman gods?
4. What did people think of George for his actions?

